

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated February 10, 2005, the Examiner objected to the specification due to an informality. Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11, 13-18, 20, 21, 23-28, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,263,064 ("O'Neil") in view of U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0035605 ("McDowell"). Further, claims 2, 9, 12, 19, 22, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over O'Neil. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

I. Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification due to an informality. In this Amendment, the informality has been corrected. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

II. The Proposed Combination of O'Neil and McDowell Does Not Render the Currently-Claimed Invention Unpatentable

Independent claims 1, 11, and 21 are directed to a method and system for providing an improved routing solution that uses a presence management and detection Web service in combination with communication tools having embedded presence management devices. In general, a message which is to be routed to one of a plurality of authorized parties is received. A web service is polled to detect the presence of a first authorized party of the plurality of authorized parties. It is determined that the presence of the first authorized party remains undetected over an allocated time period and the web service is polled again to detect the presence of a second authorized party of the plurality of authorized parties. ***In response to detecting the presence of the second authorized party***, the message which is to be ***routed to one of a plurality of authorized parties*** is routed to an active communication device associated with the second authorized party. Neither O'Neil or McDowell disclose at least routing a message which is to be ***routed to one of a plurality of authorized parties*** to an active

communication device associated with an authorized party ***in response to detecting the presence of the authorized party.***

O'Neil is directed to a computer-implemented control center for permitting a subscriber of a plurality of communications services of a unified messaging system to customize communication options pertaining to the communications services. As admitted by the Examiner, O'Neil does not disclose detecting the presence of the first or second authorized party. Therefore, O'Neil necessarily does not disclose routing a message which is to be ***routed to one of a plurality of authorized parties*** to an active communication device associated with an authorized party ***in response to detecting the presence of the authorized party.***

Like O'Neil, McDowell also does not disclose routing a message which is to be routed to one of a plurality of authorized parties to an active communication device associated with an authorized party in response to detecting the presence of the authorized party. McDowell is directed to a system that provides advertisements to instant messaging users. McDowell discloses a system that detects the presence of a user, but McDowell does not disclose routing a message that is to be ***routed to one of a plurality of authorized parties*** to an active communication device associated with an authorized party ***in response to detecting the presence of the authorized party.*** In contrast, McDowell discloses a system that sends a plurality of advertisements to a plurality of potential customers who are currently online. In other words, the McDowell system is not attempting to send a single message intended for a group of people, to a single person in response to detecting the presence of that single person.

Due to the fact neither O'Neil or McDowell disclose or suggest routing a message which is to be routed to one of a plurality of authorized parties to an active communication device associated with an authorized party in response to detecting the presence of the authorized party, any combination of O'Neil and McDowell necessarily cannot render independent claims 1, 11, and 21, or any of their dependent claims, unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil in view of McDowell.

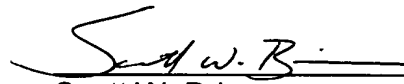
III. O'Neil Does Not Render Claims 2, 9, 12, 19, 22, and 29 Unpatentable

Claims 2 and 9 are dependent of independent claim 1, claims 12 and 19 are dependent of independent claim 11, and claims 22 and 29 are dependent of independent claim 21. As explained above, due to the fact O'Neil does not disclose or suggest routing a message which is to be routed to one of a plurality of authorized parties to an active communication device associated with an authorized party in response to detecting the presence of the authorized party, O'Neil necessarily cannot render independent claims 1, 11, and 21, or any of their dependent claims, unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to claims 2, 9, 12, 19, 22, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott W. Brim
Registration No. 51,500
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200